

ALERT BULLETIN

Caller ID Scam



Don't Be A Victim!



Caller ID Scam

TYPE OF SCAM

Caller ID spoofing is when someone changes the phone number that is displayed when they call you.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCAM

Scammers impersonating banks, government officials, and even the police may use Caller ID spoofing to trick you into believing that they truly are who they claim to be.

These scammers use software to change your Caller ID to display whatever number they wish, making it more likely that you will pick up the phone and believe that they are who they say they are.

A common trend for this scam is for the scammer to make it appear as if your own number is calling you. This might cause you to answer the phone out of confusion or curiosity. This will then usually result in an automatic "robocall" or a telemarketer trying to sell you something.

However, Caller ID spoofing can be used in much more insidious ways than telemarketing as one local resident found out recently. A scammer called the local resident and asked if the resident had recently sent money to relatives over seas and whether or not he had paid taxes for this transfer. The resident told the scammer that he was not aware that he needed to pay taxes for the transfer. The scammer then told the resident that an arrest warrant had been issued due to his failure to pay the taxes. He requested that the resident send several hundred dollars to a subject in California to avoid arrest.

While one might think that this would appear very suspicious, the scammer used Caller ID spoofing to cause the resident's Caller ID to display the incoming call as the Police Department's phone

number. Because of this, the resident believed the call to be legitimate and sent the money. It was only after the resident contacted the Police Department that he learned this was a scam.

Another resident fell victim to a similar scam. She received a call that appeared to have come from her gas company. They claimed that she had a past due bill and that they would shut off her services if she did not pay the bill immediately by giving them her credit card information.

In reality, the resident's caller was a scammer using Caller ID spoofing to appear as her gas company. Luckily, the resident checked her account information and called her gas company back to verify the situation. When her gas company told her that her account was fine and that they had not called her she realized that this was a scam.

WHAT THE SCAMMER WANT\$

MONEY! Whether by selling you something, acquiring your personal information, or simply by tricking you into sending them money, they will stop at nothing to get as much of your money as possible.

YOUR RESPONSE

Do not trust suspicious calls even if your Caller ID says that the caller is someone you know or an official that you should trust. This could simply be a scammer tricking you into lowering your guard.

Try to confirm who the caller is by calling back the agency or person they claim to represent or to be. In addition, it is a good rule to never conduct business or give out personal or financial information over the phone unless you initiated the call.

VICTIM OF THIS SCAM

Falsifying Caller ID information with the intent to defraud, cause harm, or wrongfully obtain anything of value is prohibited by the

Federal Communications Commission.

If you suspect that you have received a call with a falsified Caller ID or have been scammed by someone using a falsified Caller ID, you can make a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission. There are several ways to do this including Filing a complaint online at <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or calling at 1-888-CALL-FCC (1-888-225-5322).

Furthermore, you may wish to contact your local police department, especially if you believe someone was impersonating them or if you were scammed by someone impersonating them.

Important Facts to Remember

- Telemarketers and scammers can trick your Caller ID into displaying a false number or name.
- If you are suspicious of a call, verify the caller's identity by calling the agency, business, or person they claim to be calling for or to be.
- If you receive a call with falsified Caller ID information or you suspect that someone has falsified their Caller ID information with the intent to scam you, you can file a complaint to the Federal Communications Commission.
- Never give out personal or financial information on incoming calls.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Lisle Police Department at 630-271-4200 or 911

**This bulletin was prepared by the
Volunteers In Police Services Unit of the
Lisle Police Department**